

Investigator's Report

Detective-in-Training

Case Information

Investigator's Name: _____ Date: _____

Case File #: 001 _____

Case Name: Florissant's Past _____

Location: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO _____

Observations:

Evidence of past life can be found all over Florissant Valley. Use your detective skills and think of what types of evidence can tell you about the past. If you thought of things like fossils or historic structures, you're on your way to becoming a super-sleuth! Look at fossils, bent trees, and historical structures at Florissant for clues to the park's past!

Questions and Hypotheses

Formulating hypotheses is an important step in your investigation. Your attempts to answer the questions will guide your search for evidence. Write a hypothesis for each question below. Remember to write the hypothesis as an answer to the question, with as much detail as possible. You should be able to test each hypotheses to see if it is true or false.

1. Many fossils can be found in Florissant Valley. What can they tell us about the plants and animals that used to live here?

2. Look at the trunks of the trees at Florissant. Some of them are bent at very strange angles. How did this happen?

3. There is an old homestead at Florissant. Who used to live here? What conclusions can you make about their life?

Now that you have hypotheses written, start looking at the evidence to see if it supports your hypotheses. You will need to visit these leads to gather evidence for your case. Use the space below to take notes.

Adeline Hornbek:

Eocene Ecosystems:

Fossils:

Now that you have hypotheses written, start looking at the evidence to see if it supports your hypotheses. You will need to visit these leads to gather evidence for your case. Use the space below to take notes.

Fossil Collection Books:

Homestead Tour:

Utes:

Verification

Hypothesis 1	TRUE	FALSE
Hypothesis 2	TRUE	FALSE
Hypothesis 3	TRUE	FALSE

Date: _____

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